

## Energy Conservation

The City of Longview has an "Energy Conservation Team" comprised of 10 City employees dedicated to reducing energy consumption for local government. This group also monitors and maintains compliance with Texas Senate Bill (SB) No. 12 and House Bill (HB) No. 3693. These bills require municipalities to reduce energy consumption by 5% each year, over the next 5 years. Overall the City of Longview cut energy use by 46% during 2001 - 2006, saving more than 215 million kilowatt hours (kWh) per year.

### **What Longview Has Accomplished So Far**

Longview cut energy cost by 46% by targeting all types of energy consumption and purchasing energy-efficient equipment and lighting. Working with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), The Texas Energy Partnership, and local suppliers as much as possible, Longview's investments have supported the local economy and saved money to pay for the electrical rate increases over the past few years.

*Some of the energy-saving actions include:*

- Turning off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Replacement of equipment with energy-efficient and/or Energy -Star rated whenever possible or practical.
- Installation of energy saving devices such as timers and motion switches whenever possible and practical.
- Upgrading water pumps when feasible.
- Installing LED Traffic Lights.
- Listed below are some of the ways the City of Longview cut energy cost by 46% during 2001 - 2006.
- Removal of space heater and replaced them with 100-watt foot warmers.
- Whenever possible, replaced lighting with the most energy-efficient fluorescent type as is practical such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and T8 Fluorescent light bulbs. (Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use one-quarter to one-third as much electricity as incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times as long. By replacing standard magnetic ballasts and T-12 fluorescent lamps with more efficient T-8 lamps and electronic ballasts, a building can consume 40% less energy for lighting.)
- Introduced city policy regulating thermostat temperature to 68 degrees in the winter, and 72 degrees in the summer.
- Replaced outdoor lighting fixture covers with a clear glass lenses. The fixtures yielded more light to the ground and has allowed for the removal of multiple fixtures.
- Adjusted the dress code policy allowing staff to dress more comfortable for the different seasons.
- Regular service and cleaning of AC units to reduce energy consumption.
- Installed energy efficient windows in constructed or remodeled buildings whenever possible. (According to the Department of Energy, 25% of the energy used to heat a building goes right out the windows. The most efficient windows produced today insulate four times better than windows produced two decades ago. Tinted glass coatings and low-emissivity "low-e" coatings reduce the amount of solar heat that enters the building while maintaining necessary light levels. Thin-walled steel, silicone foam and butyl rubber edge seals also contribute to maintaining an airtight seal and increase the insulation of windows.)

### **The Next Step for Longview**

Building on the proactive success, the City of Longview is researching and developing more significant investments with potentially greater but more long-term payoffs. Some of these investments are:

- Energy Saving Performance Contracting (ESPC) program, managed in Texas by SECO. This innovative financing technique enables municipal governments to invest in energy efficiency improvements without upfront payment, instead financing costs through future energy and maintenance savings.
- Longview is investigating energy saving projects that other municipalities have utilized.

### **Energy Saving Ideas**

The Department of Energy website provides helpful tips for saving energy at home. From changing light bulbs to adjusting air conditioners, there are lots of ways to make a difference on your energy costs.

[Visit the Department of Energy Website](#) [1]

[Senate Bill 12 Report and Energy Consumption Data](#) [2] (pdf/34k)

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#### **Links:**

[1] <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/>

[2]

<http://citynews.longviewtexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/2009%20Year%203%20SB12%20Report%20Form.pdf>

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